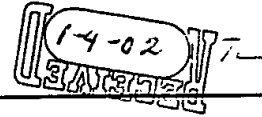


Re: 09/343,823



Ins C17

1. (Amended) A telecommunications network comprising:

an originating system connected to a terminating system via at least one other network element; and

a network element equipped with a processor for transmitting a message to the terminating system indicating that a transmission was received over a non-private link subject to unauthorized interception.

B1

2. (Amended) The telecommunications network of claim 1 further comprising the terminating system alerting a called station that said transmission was non-private upon receipt of said message.

Ins C27

3. (Amended) A telecommunications network of claim 1 further comprising the originating system alerting a calling party of presence of said non-private link.

4. (Amended) A method for providing secure transmissions in a telecommunications network comprising the steps of:

establishing a route from a sender to a recipient;

determining whether at least a portion of the route includes an insecure link;

responsive to determination that the route includes an insecure link, providing to said sender and prior to connection to said recipient an alert of the insecure nature of the transmission.

5. The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of:

completing a call after the alert has been provided.

Re: 09/343,823

B2 INS C37  
6. (Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein providing an alert includes issuing a distinctive ring at a station associated with the recipient.

7. The method of claim 4 wherein providing an alert includes issuing a message on an identification display.

10. The method of claim 4 wherein providing an alert includes providing an audible voice message.

11. The method of claim 4 wherein providing an alert includes using an audible tone.

12. The method of claims 10 or 11 wherein providing an alert includes providing a periodic alert.

13. The method of claim 4 further comprising:

issuing an alert when a previously secure route becomes insecure.

14. The method of claim 4 wherein providing an alert includes a query screen on a personal computer.

18. A telecommunications system comprising:

means for interconnecting a caller to a called party; and

means for alerting the caller or called party when a call path is established using at least one insecure link.

Re: 09/343,823

19. The telecommunications system of claim 18 wherein the call path traverses a packet data network.

20. The telecommunications system of claim 18 further comprising means for determining whether an insecure link has been traversed.

21. The telecommunications system of claim 18 further comprising means for issuing insecure link alert signals to other elements in a telecommunications network.

22. The telecommunications system of claim 18 further comprising means for the caller and called party to hear insecure warning signals throughout the call.

23. The telecommunications system of claim 18 wherein the call path traverses a cell network.

24. The telecommunications system of claim 18 wherein the means for alerting is subject to parameters established for a particular subscriber.

*Ins 67*  
*B3*  
*Cont.*

25. A method for providing secure transmissions in a telecommunications network comprising the steps of:

- a. establishing a route from a sender to a recipient;
- b. determining whether at least a portion of the route includes a non-private link subject to unauthorized interception;

Re: 09/343,823

c. responsive to a positive result in said determining step, further determining whether a secure connection may be established between said sender and said recipient; and

d. responsive to a positive result in said determining step and a negative result in said further determining step, providing an alert of the insecure nature of the route.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein said telecommunications network includes at least one intermediate node in said route from said sender to said recipient, and wherein step c. thereof further comprises the step of:

transmitting a message including a security status request through each of said at least one intermediate node.

27. The method of claim 25 wherein said telecommunications network includes at least one intermediate node in said route from said sender to said recipient, and wherein step c. thereof further comprises the step of:

for each of said at least one intermediate node, if such node is insecure, receiving a message indicating such node is insecure.

28. The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of:

e. establishing a secure connection between said sender and said recipient.

29. The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of:

e. establishing a connection between said sender and said recipient despite a determination that a secure connection cannot be established.

Re: 09/343,823

30. The method of claim 25 wherein said alert is provided to a user of said sender, and further comprising the step of:

e. receiving authorization from said user, after said user has received said alert, to maintain a connection between said sender and said recipient.

31. The method of claim 25 wherein said alert is provided to a user of said recipient, and further comprising the step of:

e. receiving authorization from said user, after said user has received said alert, to establish a connection between said sender and said recipient.

32. The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of:

e. responsive to a positive result in said determining step and a negative result in said further determining step, establishing a new route between said sender and said recipient.